GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1449
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2009
IMPLEMENTATION OF MULTI -PURPOSE IDENTITY CARDS
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Ramasubbu Shri S.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the implementation of Multi-purpose Identity Cards scheme is progressing at a slow pace;

(b) if so, the details and the constraints being faced in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any review of this scheme;

(d) if so, the details and outcome;

(e) whether the Government has any proposal to extend the scheme to other parts of the country;

(f) if so, the details therefor; and

(g) the details of assistance provided and the steps taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a) to (g): A pilot project on Multi-purpose National Identity Card (MNIC) which was undertaken for implementation in selected areas of 12 States and one Union Territory, has been completed on 31-03-2009. The purpose of the Pilot Project was to test check the process laid down in the citizenship Rules, 2003 as well as the technological requirements of identity cards. Based on the experience of the Pilot Project, the Government has proposed to prepare a National Population Register (NPR) in the country at the time of 2011 Census. For NPR, details on specific characteristics of each individual shall be collected. Besides, there will be photographs and finger biometrics of all those who are 18 years of age and above.

In the meanwhile; preparation of NPR for the 3331 coastal villages identified in 9 maritime States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal and 4 Union Territories(UTs) of Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Pudducherry, has been advanced to 2009-10. This has been done as part of the measures to strengthen the coastal security, following the 26/11 incident in Mumbai. The scheme for data collection in these coastal villages as well as the towns of Adaman & Nicobar (A&N) Islands, has been approved by the Government at an estimated cost of Rs. 80.78 crores. Identity (smart) cards, are proposed to be issued to all those usual residents in these coastal villages who are of 18 years of age and above. The remaining coastal villages as well as towns/cities will be covered at the time of preparation of NPR for the country alongwith 2011 Census.